-Advertisaments
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#### The H. C. of L.

The House having promptly agreed to remain in session to combat the adversary, Higher Cost of Living, it remains to be seen whether conjoined wisdom will achieve anything to the purpose.

Perhaps, but only perhaps. It is worth while to consider some reasons for doubt. In the first place the problem reeks with opportunities for demagogism. It summons quackery and sham and every sort of substitute for Ersatz product. It furnishes a mask to those who cover indifference to the people by a pretence of extreme solicitude. The buck of blame is likely to pass too rapidly to be seen.

Not long ago there was a great antiment. The fiascos of the oil and tobacco | ball in a quite religious fervor: dissolutions merely showed how inept and ridiculous is our public leadership when it tries. The round-up of prices may dribble off into another vain attack on forms of business organization—to economic advantage of lawyers who conduct the litigation, but practically to no one else. Already the Federal Trade Commission has its nose on the old false scent and another journey up a blind alley is started. But there is not the zest there was in the old halloo, and the commission may be diverted to work less arid. The ringnosing of monopoly is a worthy pursuit, but it has elements of tiresomeness to a public which sees that

Prices are up. A huge inflation of money and credit has come. With more dollars and heavier loans by the banks and no corresponding increase in the aggregate of commodities, the law of for it is generally recognized that the evils of a forced contraction of credit would be greater than those of inflation. Loud is the outery against a depreciated dollar, but we would have it remain.

So the demand is not so much for a deflation of prices as a whole, as for more equitable distribution. The group seemingly the hardest hit is the great army of small investors, not engaged in active business, whose actual incomes have been almost halved. Capital of all kinds has shrunk, but the big fellow has had offsetting gains. Victims with the small capitalists are, of course, workers in vocations where compensation is conventionalized and non-fluid-teachers, preachers, public employers, clerks: the white collared in general.

The gains have gone chiefly to agriculturists, to workers employed in industries where wages quickly respond, to speculators and to men in businesses that greatly expanded.

If there is to be an immediate remedy it must include the trimming of the extra profits of those who are enriched. The \$2.26 wheat is near the heart of the high living problem. This guaranteed price has affected the price of other grains by decreasing the number of acres available for other uses, and so has pushed up the cost of meat, of butter, of eggs and all forms of farm produce. It seems essential to discontinue the wheat guarantee and to market the government wheat even though the Treasury suffers

Wages in industries where the wage increases have been large need to be marrowly scrutinized to ascertain whether or not living costs have outrun wage enhancements. No group can be trusted to judge this matter for itself. Statistics of all kinds are in circulation and it is ne assary to be sure of thue ones. If social justice is to be done, public agents and arbitral boards must show more resist than hitherto.

For the speculators and the makers of

recast the income tax; to regrade it so | cratic education. Therefore the Chias to relieve speculators of unearned gains, especially if they have operated in the food field. Money so collected might well go to meet the wheat deficit.

Outside the realm of Congress something can be achieved by establishing free and open public markets. There are more retailers than the public soads, and swollen competitive expenses are of course reflected in prices. That retailers individually are not spaceally factoring is probably true, but too large a percentage of the population seems engaged theless, the reform means an immense in food vending.

chasing must be stimulated in all possible ways. There is a call for a return of the old-fashioned cheapening market basket and of arms strong enough to carry food home.

The Moral Equivalency of Baseball Of all the folk who would eat their cake and have it too the pacifists who would abolish war and yet preserve its benefits seem the most egregiously illogical and naïvely absurd. When William James wrote his famous essay upon a Moral Equivalent of War he conceded the doubts and difficulties frankly, and merely stated the desired end without pretending to reach it. He suggested certain adventurous occupations, such as railroading, as coming nearest to the education yielded by war. Oddly enough, he proposed something very like conscription to do the adventurous labor of the world, that every citizen might

Now comes a writer in The Dial who puts forward baseball as the answer to the whole problem. We can believe that Professor James was amused by the suggestion when it was broached to him, those years ago, and there are traces of humor in the current Dial articleas considerable traces as so solemn a remoulder of the universe can countenance. But in the end the searcher for trust campaign which provided no nutri- a moral equivalent of war presents base-

I am ready to urge the claims of international baseball as capable of arousing far more national religious fervor than the more monotonous game of armaments and war. Those who fear 'the deadly monotony of a universal reign of peace' can convince themselves of the thrilling and exciting character of baseball by watching the behavior of crowds not only at the games, but also at the baseball score boards miles away. National rivalries and aspirations could find their intensest expression in a close international pennant race, and yet such rivalry would not be incompatible with the establishment of the true Church Universal, in which all men would feel their brotherhood in the Infinite Game."

Thrills and excitement-all that this advocate of peace can see in war-are ficidental to war training, to be sure, prices have gone up less in the domains part of the rough, hard stuff of life upon of big business than in those of little which William James felt human youngsters should toughen their teeth. But the vicarious thrills of the bleachers are about as far away from the terrible effort and risk of a battle as The Dial is from life. In the last analysis it is sacrifice that makes war a great moral training school to stiffen wills and ennoble and enrich. And there can be no supply and demand has had its usual sacrifice without risk, without tragedy, effect. Senator Myer has a bill to com- without fierce effort. There is the pel deflation, but it has little support, dilemma which our pacifists face: They would retain the benefit of war, yet they must begin by rejecting the very stuff of devotion which alone gives it moral value. They are sa worse than the child who would eat is cake and keep it. They wish a cake that is all pretty pink-and-white icing, and yet they must have it nutritious and wholesome.

### A Chinese Departure

To the overthrow of the ancient empire and the declaration of war on Germany gard of Americans for the laws of their changing China adds a third entry which, strange to say, has passed almost unnoticed by the outside world. It is the introduction of phonetic writing by a government decree issued last winter.

As with most, if not all, ancient peoples, writing with the Chinese originated copying the appearance of objects. Realistic in origin, the system by and by developed into conventionalism, fixed symbols, evolving from rough portraiture and permitting the representation of abstract concepts. Thus the Chinese method expressed vicinity by two squares drawn side by side; descent was symbolized by the image of a child suspended on a cord; two female heads. topped over by a roof, signified the concept of quarrel. This system of writing is called ideography or the picturing of ideas. It naturally necessitates an enormous number of symbols, and its expressive range is restricted. Its inconveniences were so obvious that Chinese savants attempted simplification. In 121 A. D. the number of primary or root symbols was fixed at 546. Combinations were employed to express additional words. In 1616 the number was only. reduced to 214, and ever since the tendency toward an ideophonetic system, or the combination of concept writing with sound writing, was traceable.

Under this system a disease was represented by the sign of illness combined with the signs of the particular affic-Thus baldness was stated by the sign of harvest plus the sign of man, both under the sign of illness. The sign. of mountain below the sign of illness signified a tumor, and so on. As Raymond de Saussure, the Swiss philologist, remarks, the analysis of this system of symbols yields a penetrating study of Chinese popular psychology.

Even with the growing tendency toward simplification, Chinese writing remained so complicated as to offer a excess profits it is perhaps possible to serious, if not fatal, obstacle to demo go to the wayer some parhas come to him.

nese government decided on a radical step. In a decree issued on November 23 last it introduced an entirely new system of phonetic alphabet, based on the rendition, not of ideas, but of sounds, as in the European languages. This alphabet consists of thirty-nine letof which twenty-four are mitials, medians and twelve finals.

To an American or European the new system would appear unnecessarily overcomplicated. For a non-Chinese it is hard to realize the difference between Shi, Sh'i, Shih, Shi'h and SHi, there being a separate letter for each. Neveradvance, an innovation of kind, not of Finally, a more thrifty habit if pur- degree. Its bearing on popular caucation will be revolutionary.

#### Heading Off War

The President is reported as saying to Senator Watson he fears, if the league of nations as embodied in the covenant s not quickly established, a new Euroean crisis.

That, is to say, there now exists a threat of war. If the league were in being what would it do? Article XI of the covenant prescribes what is to be done in such a contingency, to wit:

"Any war or threat of war, whether immediately affecting any member of the league or not, is hereby declared a matter of concern to the whole league, and the league shall take any action that may be deemed wise and effectual to safeguard the peace of nations. In case any such emergency should arise the Secretary General shall, on the request of any member of the league, summon a meeting

In the presence of a threat of war there would be a conference to consider what should be done. To get any concert of safeguarding recommendation it would be necessary to secure a unanimous vote. The recommendation, even though unanimously supported, would go back to the home governments for indorsement. This is all that could be done under the authority of the covenant.

Now, the nations can do this now. There is nothing to prevent the President calling a conference. He has ample authority under laws now on our statute books. The President is not required to wait for the ratification of the covenant before acting. Should the President issue invitations to a conference such as Sir Edward Grey vainly sought to bring together in July, 1914, no nations invited would decline. It is disingenuous to imply that with respect to meeting a world crisis the nations cannot now take coun-

A trying feature of the covenant discussion is the denial in one breath that it creates any new conditions and the assertion in the next breath that it does. The remark of the President to Senator Watson is of the latter character, while remarks to other Senators have been of the former character. One minute it is argued that the covenant does nothing and is to be accepted as at least harmless, and then in the next minute it is presented as of vast import. The truth, of course, is that the league has not a gun or a man it can use without general agreement plus the particular consent of the nations whose guns and men are to be used. But it suits personal or political ends not to present the league as it is, but as something qualitatively dif-

### The Law We Flout

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Since the bloody race conflict in the city of Chicago continues, there will naturally be many conjectures made as to its probable cause. Having been in that city several times, where I have business connections, let me tell you of the one big underlying cause -the one which transcends all others-and that is, the notorious disre-

Remembering this, it seems incredible that "The Morning American," July 31, would play up prominently on its first page a reported interview with the Illinois State Attorney, Maclay Hoyne, in which he is quoted as saying: "There should be some scheme of segregation, to which a majority of negroes will themselves consent." Here we have an officer sworn to carry out the laws as placed on the statute books of the State of Illinois openly advocating, with Mr. Hearst's connivance, a deliberate violation of the IIlinois equal rights bill.

Who, having travelled in the South, does not know that the much touted "dry" South is as "wet" as any one with the money to buy and the inclination to drink wants to make it? Their dry laws, like the South's observance of the Fourteenth Amendment, and the North's observance of the Fifteenth Amendment, are travesties. With this disregard of law and order among both races, what more natural could happen than the

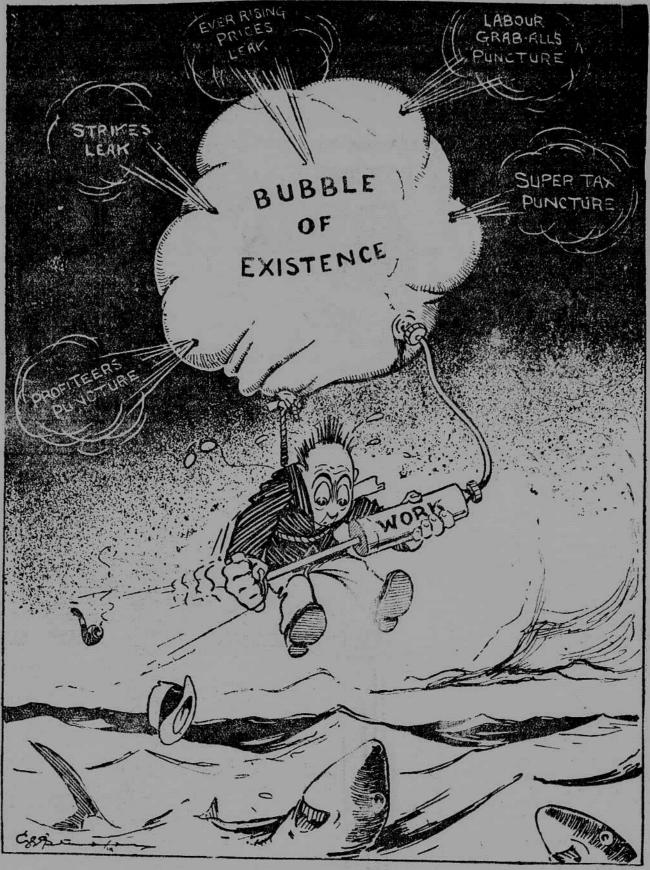
Tired, sick and disgusted with his miserable white man's contempt of law, could only fight back.

The remedy? Simply enforce all our laws but do not make new ones for the negro CHARLES T. MAGILL. Chicago, Ill., July 31, 1919.

> The Leavenworth Idea (From The Kansas City Times)

What is wanted by the War Department at the disciplinary barracks, as we understand it, is an elderly gentleman of loving disposition who will not be afraid to say "Shame on you!" or something like that, when a conscientious objector takes a shot at the flag or an I. W. W. playfully drops a bomb in the officers' dining room. The need of the hour in a disciplinary way is for some one who will be able to tell the misguided young men that it is wrong to

The Inescapable From The Philadelphia Record) Mayor Thompson of Chicago would not THE DAILY NICHTMARE



-From The Passing Show, London

# The German Harvest

By William C. Dreher The Tribune's Staff Correspondent (Copyright, 1919, by

They lost theid cherished ambitions of a Germany in a dominant position in Europe. enlarged by extensive annexations and enriched by huge war indomnities; they have lost their political position, their Kniser and with him the military machine and the control it gave them over Germany. The great bureaucratic machinery of Prussia Is gradually passing out of their hands. Socialist labor leaders are stepping into the shoes of the district presidents; the Socialist waves have begun to play upon the economic structure.

And thus it comes about that the lamentations called forth by the signing of the peace treaty were more poignant in the Conservative press than elsewhere. A few of the utterances of Conservative papers may find a place here.

The "Pommersche Tagespost," of Stettin, ranted thus: "Burning, boiling hatred must be kindled in all German hearts. Revenge, unsparing revenge, will we take upon our oppressors. Retribution and revenge, instead of father and mother, are the first words that we want to hear babbled by our latest born children." Yet this wild editor feels sure that not even his strong words, "but only action," will avail to save Germany, and the specific action demanded is "that we again become a power, that we again forge a German sword as strong and unconquerable as the old one." He even thinks immediate "action" is possible: "In the East the torch of liberty must be lighted and its blaze will penetrate victoriously into the West. . . Forward to the rescue!"

existence, the colored man, infected with the "Deutsche Tageszeitung," the Pan-German organ of Count von Reventlow, is mild. Mitteleuropa, which fructified the world and preserved its peace for more than forty years, there appears a wild chaos, in which Clemenceau, Lloyd George and Wilson . . . have sowed the dragon's teeth of eternal enmity and most venomous hatred."

> Of course, President Wilson comes in for much sharp criticism in connection with the signing of the treaty. It is not necessary to reproduce remarks of that kind here; but the "Hamburger Nachrichten," which used to be Bismarck's body organ in the final years of his life, fastened upon one of the President's sins at Versailles which has probably not been duly characterized by any other newspaper in the world. Here is its astonishing discovery: men that Wilson demanded that his wife should be present at the signing. For such a gross lack of tect we can find no parliacentary expression whatever; but the

with the peace terms most Germans turn hopefully to the league of nations. That stipulations of the treaty can be expected. ! While there is much genuine sentiment in favor of the league in itself, I suspect that this hope of getting a certain absolution at least some relaxation of punishmentmeans the present government and all the democratic elements-wanted a much further-reaching form of the compact than

Economic and social conditions have been ments of social unrest have chosen just this time, apparently, for a concerted effort to increase the troubles of a government already weak. Strikes and riotous outbreaks, accompanied by the pillaging of food shops, have occurred in many towns within a week. Here at Berlin and in a few other cities a strike of railway workers was begun, which threatened at one time to extend to the whole country.

that adopted at Paris.

The folly of such a strike, from the standpoint of Prassia's finances, was manifest. Even after ailway rates have been sharply advanced the roads are being operated at a heavy loss. The Finance Minister said In comparison with the Stettin paper, the last week that the deficit to be met this year, if the demands of the railway workers were yielded to, would reach 3,600 or prob-Germany is dead," it wrote; "in place of | ably 4,000 million marks. He added that he had already asked the Assembly for credits of 10,000 millions, but soon would have to ask for an additional 4,000 millions. The wages of the men had already been so advanced that the average for the whole country was 4,200 marks per man; but the new advances asked for would have raised this figure to 8,000 marks.

In the negotiations with the workers the government showed the impossibility of raising their pay, but offered a compromise in the shape of an extensive reduction of thinking, evidently, that this would nip reductions will cause a clear loss of 1,500,-000,000 marks to nation, states and towns of our opponents and their leading states- organizations accepted this offer and voted ear to revolutionary agitators, who told variety show character of to-day's peace | them that "whoever has control of the rail- | men of course, declined the gift.

PERLIN, July 10. - The unhappiest peo- ceremony is adequately characterized by it, ways has his hand on the throat of the ple in Germany are naturally the The humiliation inflicted upon us here state" However, they finally went to work, Conservatives the elements that we again by our enemies the German people after having been threatened with summary our together under the designations of will never forget. It is the summit of hu- dismissal, but they went sulkily, murmur- Through drowned and glimmering color. Time Pan-Germans. Prussian aristocracy, Prus- man brutality to make a theatrical per- ing that their demands had not been withsian militarism. They have lost more formence out of an act of state that is to drawn, but only postponed. So the nation- Only slow rhythmic swaying; and you through the war than any other class of decide the weal and woe of an entire | wide railway strike has been adjourned for time; but the feeling that some evil | And roses in the darkness; and my love. force has its hands on the throat of the In spite of their deep disappointment | state remains.

> Under the brief sway of Socialism not arangement is now their only opening yet realized German labor has become exthrough which a moderation of the harsher | ceedingly dictatorial. The laboring people, of course, are living under extraordinarily hard conditions, with food of all sorts extremely scarce and dear; but it is none the less evident that they are in a mood that bodes ill for the German nation. Like the through the league, is the chief ground for tamed lion that has once tasted human its rather marked popularity among Ger- blood, they are breaking away from all mans. Popularity, however, is too strong a | control. The old labor organizations, once word; it is an acceptance rather than a | models of wise moderation in modern labor whole-hearted approval of the league. The | movement, have for a half year seen the real friends of the league here—and that | reins slipping from their hands and passing into the hands of reckiess, turbulent lenders. The laboring classes have proved on more than one occasion that they can force the government to do their will, or at least make big concessions; and it is to be expected that they will continue to passing from bad to worse and the ele- exert pressure upon it through strikes, . . .

And the economic effects have already begun to manifest themselves in forms that augur ill for Germany's further development. At a recent meeting of the stockholders of a great coal company in the Essen region Hugo Stinnes, one of the coal and steel magnates of Germany, said that the aggregate deficits of the coal companies | We are the little men who bind in western Germany since the revolution amount to 500,000,000 marks, which happens to be just about the amount paid in dividends during the whole war. Another report on conditions there in the coal and fron industry says that production has sunk to about one-fourth of what it was before We are your masters, priests, and kings the war, whereas not half of the home demand can be satisfied, not to mention foreign business. Many shops that build cars and locomotives and other machinery have been forced to shut down because they can- Hide thou our shame when we are sped! not obtain coal and iron; and meanwhile "control has passed into the hands of laborers and office employes who, instead of working, are ever holding long-winded discussions of socialization and similar problems."

At Munich the excessive demands of the workmen; together with the prostration of business, have caused several important establishments to shut down. The most the prices at which foreign food is sold, prominent manufacturer there, a builder of locomotives, adopted a drastic process in the bud a host of other strikes. The with his men when they demanded the same O. I who would not have your glory shed. pay for a six-hour work day as they had been getting for nine. He asked the shop "It is characteristic of the moral decline within the next three months. The railway leaders to go, before a notary with him and he would sign a deed giving them the their disapproval of the strikes. Neverthe- whole establishment outright. I know a less, the strikers refused for several days | manufacturer who did the same thing, with to return to work, preferring to lend an | the happy result that he was at least able to shut down without further loss. His

## A Week of Verse

On Growing Old BE WITH me, Beauty, for the fire is dying. My dog and I are old, too old for roving; Man, whose young passion sets the spindrift flying,

Is soon too lame to march, too cold for loving I take the book and gather to the fire. Turning old yellow leaves. Minute by minute The clock ticks to my heart; a withered wi Moves a thin ghost of music in the spine I cannot sail your seas, I cannot wander Your mountains, nor your downlands, a

your valleys, Ever again, nor share the battle yonder Where your young knight the broken soundron rallies;

Only stay quiet, while my mind memember The beauty of fire from the beauty of ember

Beauty, have pity; for the young have por

The rich their wealth, the benutiful the

Summer of man its fruit-time and its flows Spring-time of man all April in a fac-Only, as in the jostling in the Strand Where the mob thrusts, or loiters, or is low.

The beggar with the saucer in his hand Asks only a penny from the passing co So, from this glittering world with fashion. Its fire and play of men, its stir, its marel

Let me have wisdom, Beauty, wisdom and passion.

Bread to the soul, rain where the summers parch. Give me but these, and though the darliness

Even the night will blossom as the ro-JOHN MASEFILLD

Gloucestershire-From Abroad

ON DINNY HILL the daffodil Has crowned the year's returning. The water cool in Placket Pool Is ruffled up and burning In little wings of fluttering fire: And all the heart of my desire

Is now to be in Gloucestershire

The tiver flows, the blossom blows In orchards by the river: O now to stand in that, my land. And watch the withies shiver! The yearning eyes of my desire Are blinded by a twinkling fire

Of turning leaves in Gloucestershire The shadows fleet o'er springing wheat Which like green water washer The red old earth of Minsterworth And ripples in such flashes As by their little harmless fire Light the great stack of my desire This day to be in Gloucestershire.
F. W. HARVEY

Slumber Song

SLEEP; and my song shall build about your A Paradisc of dimness. You shall feel

The folding of tired wings; and peace will

Throned in your silence; and one hour shall hold

Summer, and midnight, and immensity Lulled to forgetfulness. For, where you dream.

The stately gloom of foliage shall embower Your slumbering thought with tapestries of And there shall be no memory of the sky

Nor sunlight with its cruelty of swords. But, to your soul that sinks from deep to

SIEGFRIED SASSOON

We Are the Little Men (From The English Review) WE ARE the little men who made An earth, a heaven, and a god; Devils, and martyrs unafraid Who bled, and blossom in the sod. Altars, and smoke of sacrifice

To weil our hot, desirous eyes. With kisses from our praying lips We burnt our lusts upon your nights. Touching your breasts with finger tips Too avid of their quick delights. And for your wounds a Christ who bleeds, And long cold hours to tell your beads.

Order and law and sheltered ease, And little painted jails of stone; Soft smiles, and supple knightly knees. All this was given you to own; And with our little hands of cisy We soiled the flowers about your way

Children you gave us for our pride Young flesh of pleasure, blood of pain; So were you, Mother-sanctifled; We knelt us to our gods again, The Mart, the Furnace, and the Guns Who drink the blood of all your sons

The dreams we may not understand With words, that you must stumble, blind, Along the paths our fathers planned: By little laws found meet and good Trip the young feet of motherhood.

One law alone, the law we give; There is no song a woman sings, No vision, and no dreams that live O, dust of all the Woman-dead,

STEPHEN SOUTHWOLD. To a Poet (From the Buglish Reviews) YOU have put on your singing robe again, That is a flash of wings, Now white, now gold, now iridescent, then Black as the pit whence all sweet singing

springs. But I who worship where I may not tread.

and may God forgive me' walk so far Below your starry shrine hat sometimes, losing sight of Whose you

Your feet ensnared, forfeit your diadem?

I would give all your sange-to call you

E. H. FRIEDLAENDES.